

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00756 231519Z

47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 A-01 SCCT-01 OC-05

CCO-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 AGR-05 EB-07 /097 W

----- 125276

O R 231308Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8302

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSLAEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMMSIXTHFLT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00756 231519Z

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0756

MOSCOW FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR DAY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, LE
SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE OFF TO UNCERTAIN START BUT SIGNS ARE HOPEFUL

REF BEIRUT 0713 (1422Z)

1. SUMMARY: CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCED FOR 2000 HOURS LOCAL JAN 22 HAS BEEN MARRED BY VIOLATIONS, BUT LEVEL OF VIOLENCE HAS SO FAR DROPPED NOTICEABLY. LOOTING IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN BEIRUT AS FOOD SHORTAGES CONTINUE THERE. JOINT LEBANESE/SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN CEASEFIRE COMMITTEE NAMED. MAJOR FACTIONS HAVE GIVEN APPROVAL TO SECURITY/POLITICAL ACCORD, BUT CHAMOUNISTS HAVE REPORTEDLY MADE RESERVATIONS. PRES FRANGIE IS EXPECTED TO MAKE PUBLIC THE POLITICAL SIDE OF ACCORD (NOW SAID TO CONSIST OF TEN POINTS) IN SPEECH LATE JAN 23. END SUMMARY.

2. EXCHANGES OF FIRE TOOK PLACE IN BEIRUT AFTER THE CEASEFIRE PROCALIMED FOR 2000 HOURS LOCAL JAN 22, AND ARE STILL AUDIBLE, PARTICULARLY IN HOTEL DISTRICT, AS OF MID-AFTERNOON JAN 23. HOWEVER, LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN CAPITAL HAS NOTICEABLY SUBSIDED IN RESPONSE TO CEASEFIRE CALL. SINCE EVERYONE EXPECTS FULL COMPLIANCE WILL TAKE TIME, FIGHTING AT THIS REDUCED LEVEL IS BEING TAKEN AS HOPEFUL SIGN. REPORTEDLY, ZGHORTA AREA IS STILL SCENE OF SOME FIGHTING. WE DO NOT HAVE FIRM REPORT CONCERNING ZAHLE.

3. DATT SOURCES INDICATE THAT MANY ARMY AND INTERNAL SECURITY UNITS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF COUNTRY ARE EFFECTIVELY HELD "HOSTAGE" IN THEIR INSTALLATIONS WHICH ARE INVESTED BY PALESTINIAN FORCES. THIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 00756 231519Z

COMPLICATES SECURITY PICTURE CONSIDERABLY, FOR UNTIL THESE UNITS ARE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THIER ENCLAVES THEY ARE OF NO USE TO ENFORCEMENT OF CEASEFIRE. PALESTINIAN ROLE IN SECURITY IS THUS OF HEIGHTENED IMPORTANCE AT PRESENT JUNCTURE.

4. LOOTING OF STORES IS MAJOR SCOURGE IN WEST BEIRUT AND WAS CAUSE OF SOME OF THE POST-CEASEFIRE CLASHES. IN RAMLAT AL BAIDA EVENING JAN 22 ARMED MEN CAME TO LOOT THE SPINNEY'S CENTER AND FOUND

THEMSELVES IN SHARP CLASH WITH PALESTINIAN ARMED STRUGGLE COMMAND (PASC), WHICH IS ASSUMING DE FACTO POLICE POWER IN MUCH OF WEST BEIRUT. PASC ARRESTED ABOUT 30 OF THE LOOTERS. MUCH OF THE CENTER WAS BURNED.

5. THE FOOD SITUATION REMAINS SERIOUS IN THE CAPITAL. RADIO CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IRAQUIS ARE DONATING 2,000 TONS OF FOOD STUFFS WHICH ARE BEING DELIVERED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MINISTER OF ECONOMY OSSEIRAN REPEATED THAT SUFFICIENT FOOD SUPPLIES EXIST WITHIN COUNTRY, AND AS SOON AS FIGHTING ALLOWS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO WORK, FOOD AND OTHER SHORTAGES WILL ABATE.

6. AIRPORT REMAINS CLOSED. HOWEVER, GOVT AND MEA OFFICIALS OPTIMISTIC THAT IT MAY OPEN IN NEXT DAY OR SO. SCHEME TO SUPPLY GAS AND OIL TO RAS BEIRUT THROUGH TANKER DISCHARGING TO BARGE WHICH FERRIES GAS AND OIL TO ABANDONED DOCK AT CORAL BEACH (NICKNAMED "OPERATION CORAL BEACH") IS SUPPOSED TO TAKE PLACE TODAY.

7. THE JOINT LEBANESE/SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE TO SUPERVISE CEASEFIRE WILL CONSIST OF BRIGADIER MUSA KANAAN (GREEK ORTHODOX) AND COL. DEEB KAMAL (SUNNI MOSLEM) FOR LEBANON, COLS. MOHAMED AL-KHOWLI AND ALI AL-MADANI FOR SYRIA, AND ZUHAIR MOHSEN AND SAAD SAYEL FOR THE PALESTINIANS. SUB-COMMITTEES AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES ARE TO BE FORMED. THEIR TASK WILL BE THE WITHDRAWAL OF ARMED MEN FROM THE STREETS--A FORMIDABLE UNDERTAKING TO SAY THE LEAST. LATER, ARMED ELEMENTS ARE SUPPOSED TO EVACUATE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OCCUPIED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, CIVILIAN REFUGEES ARE TO BE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES, KIDNAPPED PERSONS ARE TO BE RELEASED, THE PHALANGE AND PALESTINIAN CLANDESTINE RADIOS ARE TO CEASE BROADCASTING.

8. CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS CULMINATION OF SERIES OF MEETINGS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 00756 231519Z

THAT KEPT SYRIAN DELEGATION BUSY MOST OF DAY JAN 22. AGREEMENTS WERE FIRST OBTAINED TO POLITICAL/CEASEFIRE ACCORD FROM 'ARAFAT, PALESTINIAN REJECTIONIST REPS, AND JUMBLATT. WE UNDERSTAND JUMBLATT PLAYED HARD TO GET BUT FINALLY CAME AROUND THROUGH SYRIAN PERSISTENCE. PIERRE GEMAYEL LATER GAVE APPROVAL ON BEHALF OF PHALANGE. DEFENDERS OF THE CEDARS, ZGHORTIOTE GROUP, AND ZAHLE GROUP HAVE YET TO BE HEARD FROM ON CHRISTIAN SIDE, THOUGH FRANGIE EXPECTS TO BRING THE ZGHORTIOTES ON BOARD. CONTACTS WITH CHAMOUN AND HIS NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN APPROVAL FROM THAT PARTY, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY QUALIFIED BY THREE RESERVATIONS: (1) SECURITY MUST FIRST BE RESTORED THROUGHOUT LEBANON; (2) THE CAIRO AGREEMENT WITH THE PALESTINIANS MUST BE IMPLEMENTED; (3) THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS BEFORE 45 DAYS. THOUGH TROUBLESOME, THESE CONDITIONS MAY MEAN LESS THAN APPEARS ON THE SURFACE. CHRISTIAN SIDE HAS ALREADY CONCEDED POINT

THAT A POLITICAL AGREEMENT MUST PRECEDE A CEASEFIRE, AND ALL SIDES EXPECT THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PACKAGE WILL CONCENTRATE ON SECURITY AND PALESTINIANS BEFORE MUCH PROGRESS IS MADE ON POLITICAL ACCORDS.

9. THE POLITICAL SIDE OF THE AGREEMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE MADE PUBLIC IN A SPEECH LATER TODAY BY PRES FRANGIE. OBSERVERS BELIEVE IT WILL CONSIST OF 10 POINTS: (1) THE CONSTITUTION WILL CONTAIN A PROVISION THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC IS TO BE A MARONITE; (2) PRESIDENTIAL PREROGATIVES WILL BE SPELLED OUT IN SOME FORM; (3) THE PARLIAMENT WILL ELECT THE PREMIER; (4) PROCEDURES IN CASE THE PRESIDENT REJECTS THE PREMIER-DESIGNATE OR THE LATTER REFUSES TO SERVE WILL BE SPELLED OUT (THE SPECIFICS OF THIS POINT ARE REPORTEDLY STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION); (5) THE PREMIER WILL CHAIR THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL (AS OPPOSED TO FULL-FLEDGED CABINET CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT) AND THIS BODY CAN ISSUE ROUTINE DECREES; (6) THERE WILL BE A SUPREME COURT; (7) REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT WILL BE EVENLY SPLIT BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND MOSLEMS; (8) THERE WILL BE A SECOND LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER; (9) CONFESSIONALISM WILL BE ABOLISHED IN CIVIL SERVICE JOBS EXCEPT FOR THE 170 TOP-LEVEL POSITIONS (DIRECTOR GENERAL AND ABOVE); 10 THERE WILL BE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS.

10. SYRIAN FONMIN KAHDDAM MAY RETURN TO DAMASCUS LATE JAN 23, BUT SHIHABI AND POSSIBLY JAMIL URE EXPECTED TO STAY BEHIND FOR A WHILE LONGER. SPECULATION IS THAT PRES FRANGIE WILL MAKE HIS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 BEIRUT 00756 231519Z

LONG AWAITED TRIP TO DAMASCUS ON SATURDAY, BUT THIS MAY DEPEND ON PROGRESS IN THE CEASEFIRE.
LAMBRAKIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT00756
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760026-0682
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760129/aaaaazhx.tel
Line Count: 204
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 713
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <05 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEASEFIRE OFF TO UNCERTAIN START BUT SIGNS ARE HOPEFUL
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006